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BY A. G. CHADWICK.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

From the New-York Express.

A GLIMPSE AT MOUNT VERNON.

A correspondent, who recently visited this interesting spot, has sent us a letter, from which we make the following extract:

"We have now reached the private road, leading to Mount Vernon. A servant boy met us at the gate and pointed out the house, which was yet nearly half a mile in advance. As we entered the enclosure once owned by the beloved Washington, for one, I must confess all gaiety forsook me. Though nearly forty years had passed since the dead, whose grave we sought, was among the living, and although since then the old world, in nearly every division, had been revolutionized—through Emperors, Kings, Dukes, and Presidents, had, with their generation, passed away, and millions of the great men of this world had gone, still there was but one spot, but one place, one tomb, one Mount Vernon, that contained the remains of GEORGE WASHINGTON. It was here, and I felt that I was standing upon holy ground. I chide to be alone. The history of one of the greatest men the world ever saw was spread before me from his infancy to the dying bed. The boy George who was afraid to tell a lie—the youth GEORGE WASHINGTON, who with the most filial fondness, forsook hope and ambition to soothe the anguish of a mother—the MAN WASHINGTON from 1775, when he was chosen commander in chief of the American forces—Washington at Boston, Trenton, Princeton, Germantown, Yorktown, every scene through his brilliant and interesting life, seemed an occurrence of yesterday.

We rode along to the gate enclosing the house, and agreeable to custom, sent our cards to the present occupant, *Lady Washington*, the niece of Judge Washington, who, I believe, was the former occupant of the estate, which now, as formerly, composes several hundred acres. An intelligent servant was sent in answer to our cards, with orders to conduct us about the premises. The dwelling was built of wood, two stories high, and cut in imitation of free-stone. It is ninety-six feet in length and is surmounted by a cupola. The centre of the building was erected by Lawrence Washington, brother of George, and the wings by the General himself. We entered the house built by the brother of George Washington, which with the whole estate was given to George as a token of affection and gratitude. The building is of the old fashioned style of architecture, the ceiling of each room is covered with elegant stucco; the house is very spacious, and as was generally the customary mode of building a half century since, with the kitchen and all the out-houses wholly disconnected with the dwelling-house.

I dare predict that a stranger who was ignorant of the residence of Washington, yet knew his character, would have told me that we had reached the house of the American Patriot. Every thing as far as possible was as Washington had left it when he left the world. I entered under the portico and into the house with a melancholy pleasure. The first thing that caught my eye was the key of the French Bastille, given by the Marquis de Lafayette, to General Washington. It hung in a glass frame upon the wall of the entry, a fit relic for preservation. The walls upon each side were covered with national paintings, mostly of a military character. One painting, if I remember right, represented the death of the brave Montgomery—another the battle of Bunker Hill, and several scenes of sea-fights—yet none of them were representations of Washington's own deeds of valor. Before entering the room we hurried to the front entrance of the house, under the piazza, where, upon the day of burial, rested the corpse of Washington. From this spot he was taken to the tomb, and here the coffin lid for the last time closed his lifeless remains from the gaze of man. Here within a stone's throw of the dwelling-house and the original tomb of Washington, flows the Potomac, running at this point southwest, although the course of the river is south-east. As I gazed upon these interesting waters, the beautiful and apt lines of Brainerd came irresistibly upon me:

Flow gently, Potomac! thou wastest away
The sands where he trod and the turf where he lay
When youth brushed his cheek with her wing;
Breathe softly, ye wild winds, that circle around
That dearest, and purest, and holiest ground,
Ever pressed by the footsteps of Spring.
Each breeze be a sigh, and each dew drop a tear,
Each wave be a whispering monitor near,
To remind the sad shore of his story;
And darker, and softer, and sadder the gloom
Of that evergreen mourner that sweeps o'er the tomb,
Where Washington sleeps in his glory.

I stood for a long time in front of the dwelling ruminating upon the past and present. Every thing around me was going to decay. Ruin stared me in the face wherever I turned my eyes, and Mount Vernon, though small in compass, reminded me of the Grecian Patras, known like Jerusalem and the cities of the Plain, not for what they are, but for what they have been in the history of the past. The very walls, built by the Father of his Country, to surround and enclose his family edifice, were tumbling down like the ruined city of Italy, not because America, like Italy, was dead and buried, but because America would raise no other monument to the memory of her beloved son, than the living temple which every American has raised in his own bosom. Not only was the family edifice falling to decay, but every building upon the premises. The garden walls were for the most part in ruins. "Dull time" every where had fed "like a slow fire upon a hoary brand."

"—the tooth of Time
Had ground the sculptures to rude forms,
Such as the falling waters cut from rocks
In the deep gloom of caves."

Where, I ask, is the love of Washington, when

that one "sweet spot" called home, and Washington's home too, is thus permitted to perish by the hand of time? Where will the tomb of Washington and Mount Vernon be a few years hence? Will it always be said that "he lives in the hearts of his countrymen?" when not even a decent path conducts you to his dwelling, and where, when you have reached the hallowed spot where his bones are crumbling to dust, even the surrounding earth itself looks like a deserted, forgotten and despoiled spot. I would not ask that Mount Vernon should have a magnificent tomb like those raised upon the plains of Troy, in honor of the Grecian and Trojan warriors; I would not desire that the "monumental brass" should be raised in honor of George Washington, but I do wish that the spot beloved by Washington above all others, should be made an object rather of pleasure than of disgust to the eye of the American and the foreigner.

But to return to our walk:
From the front piazza we returned to the house, re-examining with the eye of a stranger that which could be seen. The furniture was in the olden style of the revolutionary times. The walls of the rooms upon the lower floors, were covered with paintings, most of them family portraits, containing, as I was told, excellent likenesses of each of the occupants of the Vernon estate since the death of Washington. We hastened from this house of the living Washington, to the grave of the Father of our country. Every thing here was imposing and solemn. The slave who conducted us to this spot, where he had conducted thousands before, seemed affected as with us he gazed upon the monument and inscription before us—telling us simply that "here lies the remains of George Washington." The tomb was a new vault, enclosed with an iron railing, and had been built about six years. Curiosity satiated by gazing upon the new tomb, we sought out the still more interesting spot where Washington was first buried. My companions followed on. Like Hamlet and Laertes into the grave of Ophelia, so did my fellow-traveller and myself leap into the tomb of Washington. The ladies determined not to be outdone in reverence, followed on—our conductor smiled and said that no females had ever before, since the removal of the remains of Washington, which was six years, entered the vault.

We stood upon the broken boxes and frames that once enclosed the remains of our hero, gathering some stones and several pieces of the crumbling tomb as relics of our journey—then leaving the vault we again examined the garden, the green house filled with oranges, lemons, flowers and trees, all flourishing in all the beauty of nature, and then in the language of the excellent Dr. Reed of England, the enthusiastic admirer of Washington, "we soon left the domain, perhaps forever, which was once dignified by the presence and which is still sacred by the remains of Washington."

E. B.
*Called Mount Vernon in honor of Admiral Vernon, with whom Washington's brother served in an expedition against the Spaniards.

CHINESE MARRIAGES. The most essential circumstance in a respectable family alliance is, that there should be equality of rank and station on either side or that "the gates should correspond," as the Chinese express it. The marriage is preceded by a negotiation called *ping*, conducted by agents or go-betweens selected by the parents. The aid of judicial astrology is now called in, and the horoscopes of the two parties compared, under the title of the "eight characters," which express the year, month, day, and hour of the nuptials of the intended couple.—This being settled, presents are sent by the bridegroom in ratification of the union; but the bride in ordinary cases brings neither presents nor dowry to her husband. The choice of a lucky day is considered of such importance, that if the Calendar should be unfavorable in its auguries, the ceremony is postponed for months.—These superstitions are common to all times and all countries. In the *Iphigenia at Aulis*, one of the plays of Euripides, we have an exact case in point. Clytemnestra says to her husband, who is deceiving her about their daughter, "On what day shall our child wed?"—to which he replies, "When the orb of a fortunate moon shall arrive."

The most appropriate and felicitous time for marriage is considered to be in spring, and the first moon of the Chinese year (February) is preferred. It is in this month that the peach-tree blossoms in China, and hence there are constant allusions to it in connexion with marriage. These verses, from the elegant pen of Sir William Jones, are a paraphrase of a literal translation which that indefatigable scholar obtained of a passage in the Chinese "Book of Odes."

"Sweet child of spring, the garden's queen,
You peach-tree charms the roving sight
Its fragrant leaves how richly green,
Its blossoms how divinely bright!

"So softly shines the beautiful bride,
By love and conscious virtue led,
O'er her new mansion to preside,
And placid joys around her spread."

Some time previous to the day fixed, the bridegroom is invested ceremoniously with a dress cap or bonnet, and takes an additional name.—The bride, at the same time, whose hair had until this hung down in long tresses, has it turned up in the manner of married women, and fastened with bodkins. When the wedding day arrives, the friends of the bridegroom send him presents in the morning, with their congratulations. Among the presents are live geese, which are emblematical of the concord of the married state, and some of these birds are carried in the procession. The bride's relations likewise send her gifts, consisting chiefly of female finery; and her young sisters and friends of her own sex come and weep with her until it is time to leave the house of her parents. At length, when the evening arrives, and the stars just begin to be visible the bridegroom comes with an ornamented sedan, and a cavalcade of lanterns, music, &c. to fetch home his spouse. On their reaching his residence, the bride is carried into the house in the arms of the matrons who act as her friends, and lifted over a pan of charcoal at the door; the meaning of which ceremony is not clear, but which may have reference to the commencement of her household duties. She soon after issues from the bridal chamber with her attendants into the great hall, bearing the prepared *Areca*, or betel-nut, and invites the guests there assembled to partake of it. Having gone through some ceremonies in company with the bride-

groom, she is led back to her chamber, where she is unveiled by her future husband. A table is then spread, and the cup of alliance is drunk together by the young couple. Some fortunate matron, the mother of many children, then enters and pronounces a benediction, as well as going through the form of laying the nuptial bed. Meanwhile the party of friends in the hall make merry, and when the bridegroom joins them they either ply him with wine, or not, according to the character and grade of the company.—When the hour of retirement arrives, they escort him to the door of the chamber in a body, and then disperse.

On the following day the new couple come forth to the great hall, where they adore the household gods, and pay their respects to their parents and nearest relations. They then return to their chamber, where they receive the visits of their young friends; and the whole of the first month is devoted in like manner to leisure and amusement. On the third day after the wedding, visit her parents; and at length, when her father is expired, the bride's friends send her a particular head-dress, an entertainment is partaken of by the relations of both parties, and the marriage ceremonies are thereby concluded.

AMERICAN CHILDREN. The following is an extract from Miss Martineau's "Society in America," on American children. The remarks are highly complimentary—and many will pronounce them just:—

"The instruction furnished is not good enough for such a country; but it must be remembered that the same kind and degree of instruction goes much farther in a democracy than elsewhere.—The alphabet itself is of little or no value to a slave, while it is an inestimable treasure to a conscious young republican. One needs but go from a charity school in an English county, to a free school in Massachusetts, to see how different the bare requisition of reading and writing is to children, who, if they look forward at all, do it languidly, and into a life of mechanical labor merely, and to young citizens who are aware that they have their share of the work of self-government to achieve—the early republican consciousness, and the fact of the more important place which children occupy in a society, whose numbers are small in proportion to its resources, are the two circumstances which occasion that freedom of manners in American children, of which so much complaint has been made by observers, and on which so much remonstrance has been wasted; I say wasted, because it is of no avail against a necessary fact.—Till the United States ceases to be republican, and their vast area is fully peopled, the children there will continue to be as free and easy and important as they now are.

For my own part, I delight in American children. There are instances, as there are every where, of spoiled, pet, and selfish children. Parent's hearts are pierced there as elsewhere; but the independence and fearlessness of children were a perpetual charm in my eye. To go no deeper, it is a constant amusement to see how the speculations of young minds issue when they take their own way of thinking, and naturally say all they think. Some admirable specimens of active little minds were laid open to me at a juvenile ball at Baltimore. I could not have got so much in a year in England.

If I had, at home, gone in among eighty or a hundred little people, between the ages of eight and sixteen, I should have extracted little more than "Yes ma'am," and "No ma'am." At Baltimore, a dozen boys and girls at a time crowded round me, questioning, discussing, speculating, reveling in a way which enchanted me. In private houses, the comments slipped in at table by the children, were often the most memorable, and generally the most amusing part of the conversation."

DAUGHTERS. Let no man impatiently long for sons. He may please himself with ideas of boldness and masculine energy, and moral or mental achievement; but ten to one, he will meet with little else than frowardness, recklessness, imperiousness and ingratitude. "Father give me the portion that falleth to me," was the imperious demand of the profligate prodigal, who had been indulged from his childhood. This case is the representation of thousands. The painter then drew the portrait painted for all posterity.—But the daughter—she clings like the rose leaf around the stem to the parent home and parental heart; she watches the approving smile, and detects the slightest shade on the brow; she wanders not on forbidden pleasure grounds,—wings not the hearts at home with her doubtful midnight absence, wrecks not the hopes to which early promise has given birth, nor paralyses the soul that doats on this, its chosen object. Wherever the son may wander in search of fortune or pleasure, there is the daughter within the sacred temple of home, the vestal virgin of its innermost sanctuary, keeping alive the flame of domestic affection, and blessing that existence of which she herself is part.

Pungent Preaching. An old man, being asked his opinion of a certain sermon, replied, "I liked it very well, except that there was no pinch to it. I always like to have a pinch to every sermon." I was reminded of this anecdote by a remark of a son of Neptune, from Nantucket, whom I met in the gallery of a crowded church last Sabbath evening. He said it was a handsome sermon, "but he would have liked it better, if it had stuck the harpoon into the conscience of the sinner."

A DRUNKARD'S HOME.

The following description of a drunkard's home, is copied from the *Buffalo Spectator*. It presents a melancholy, but we fear too accurate a picture.

Intemperance rifles "sweet home" of its pleasant joys. A few weeks ago I addressed the people in Simsbury, Conn., on intemperance. Sabbath afternoon I visited a drunkard's home. There was but a single room in the house and that looked as if it had not for a long time known the operation of cleansing. It was covered with dirt. Sticks, crumbs of bread, and walnut shells, were scattered over the floor. On a chest sat Jeremiah Hamersson, the father. He was no common drunkard. For fifteen years he could justly be styled the "King of Drunkards." He had from day to day drunk himself drunk, in spite of every thing. He was a mechanic. He had been a man of strong mind and extensive reading and intelligence, and was said to have a remarkably tenacious memory.

Intemperance had, during fifteen successive years, sunk him lower and lower. Some of the bitter fruits of his transgressions, were blasphemy, infidelity, abuse of his wife, poverty, disease, and debt. Hamersson sat on the chest, resting his elbow on the table, which were a few dishes, broken and some men from the house of sinners. He had cleansed the room, and removed the pieces of furniture and the bed out of doors. This was hardly done before a sleigh came slowly to the door, bringing the ghastly and stiffened corpse of Hamersson's wife, which had been found in the neighboring woods. Hamersson had often savagely beaten this miserable woman. Her cries sometimes, on a Sabbath morning, had been heard at the distance of half a mile. At last her spirit sunk; it seemed as if the grave was the only outlet for her accumulated sorrows. A few days before this, Hamersson had beaten her severely; in despair, she fled into the woods, and perished alone, in the darkness and storm and midnight. This was a drunkard's home. Would that every female, about to unite her interest with that of one who tastes the intoxicating cup, could look upon this home! Verily they would "receive instruction."

CONGRESSIONAL.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BOSTON ATLAS.

Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1837.

In the Senate, after Webster had concluded, the question was taken upon the several amendments in their order.

Calhoun's amendment was carried as follows: Yeas—Messrs. Williams of Maine, Hubbard, Pierce of New Hampshire, Niles and Smith of Connecticut, Wright of N. Y., Wall of New Jersey, Buchanan of Pennsylvania, Roane of Virginia, Brown and Strange of North Carolina, Calhoun of South Carolina, King and Clay of Alabama, Walker of Mississippi, Grundy of Tennessee, Sevier and Fulton of Arkansas, Benton and Lynn of Missouri, Young of Illinois, Morris and Allen of Ohio, Norvell of Michigan. 24.

Nays—Messrs. Prentiss and Swift of Vermont, Webster of Massachusetts, Knight and Robbins of Rhode Island, Tallmadge of New York, Southard of New Jersey, Bayard and Clayton of Delaware, McKean of Pennsylvania, Kent and Spence of Maryland, Rives of Virginia, Preston of South Carolina, King of Georgia, Black of Mississippi, Nicholas of Louisiana, White of Tennessee, Clay and Crittenden of Kentucky, Robinson of Illinois, Smith and Tipton of Indiana. 23.

Absent—Ruggles of Maine, Davis of Massachusetts, and Lyon of Michigan, Culbert of Georgia, and Mouton of Louisiana.

The question was then taken on the motion of Rives to strike out the whole bill except the enacting clause, and to substitute therefor the bill introduced by himself. Lost. Ayes 22, Nays 26.

The question was then taken on Preston's amendment, and lost, by the same vote as Rives' amendment.

The question then recurred on the passage of the bill as amended, to a third reading, and it was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, by the following vote:

Ayes—Williams, Hubbard, Pierce, Niles, Smith, Wright, Wall, Buchanan, Roane, Brown, Strange, Calhoun, King of Alabama, Clay of Alabama, Walker, Grundy, Sevier, Fulton, Benton, Lynn, Robinson, Young, Allen, Lyon, Norvell. 25.

Nays—Prentiss, Swift, Webster, Davis, Knight, Robbins, Tallmadge, Southard, Bayard, Clayton, McKean, Spence, Rives, Preston, King of Georgia, Black, Nicholas, White, Clay of Kentucky, Crittenden, Smith, Tipton. 23.

You perceive that the "conservatives," who stood fire, were six, viz: Tallmadge, McKean, Rives, King of Georgia, Nicholas and Tipton; count Ruggles, who *dodged*, and they would number seven.

In the House, after a call of the House, and a muster of the members, Whittelsey of Ohio, moved to lay the report of the Committee on the Mississippi election, on the table. Lost. Ayes 70, Nays 145.

Haynes then moved the previous question. The motion was seconded, and the main question was ordered to be put.

The main question on the acceptance of the report, (which confirmed the members in their seats), was then put, and carried in the affirmative. Ayes 118, Nays 101.

A message was received to-day from the President (covering the Mexican and Texian documents called for by J. Q. Adams' resolution. They were ordered to be printed.

Wednesday Oct. 4.
The National Bank resolution was then taken up. Sergeant moved that the resolution be referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union. Cambreleng opposed this motion. He said the Committee of Ways and Means in reporting this resolution, wished to settle the question of a National Bank, with which the public was at present agitated. He hoped the Resolution would be adopted without debate. J. Q. Adams inquired if the petitions upon which this resolution was founded, had ever been read in the Committee of Ways and Means.

Cambreleng.—The petitions have been printed to the number of forty or fifty.
Adams.—I take that answer as an acknowledgment that the petitions have never been read in the committee; and what is the reason which the chairman gives us for having reported this resolution? not that the reasons urged by the petitioners are insufficient, but that he desires to settle the question once and forever; to decide that the country never shall have a National Bank. Well, why did not they say so? Why not report that the country never shall have a Bank? This is the chairman's meaning, and this ought to have been his resolution. But does the gentleman think his power is to last forever? I acknowledge his power now; but when he calls

upon me, as he did the other day, to toe the mark—such was his phrase—I must beg to be excused. His mark is not straight enough for me. It is too much like what we call in New England, a *Virginia fence*. He must learn to make a straight mark before he calls upon me to toe it. I complain to the House and to the Nation, that the chairman of the Ways and Means is WASTING THE PUBLIC TIME with a frivolous question—a question of inexpediency, a question of *what we will not do!* What the country wants is, to know *what we will do!*

Glascok opposed the motion to refer. He commenced an attack upon Adams about anti-slavery petitions. Adams said he hoped he should be permitted to reply. The Speaker then called Glascok to order, and he got into a great passion, declaring that he never attempted to address the House, without being put down by the Speaker.

Clark, of New York, one of the conservatives, spoke against the motion.

Robertson, of Virginia, defended it.
Wise said that there were three plans before the committee; and that the last two had been referred to the committee of the whole; and the first plan was entitled to the same privilege. The friends of a National Bank were not to be strangled without a hearing. They were not to be dragged before the House and set up merely to be knocked down.

Cambreleng cut short the discussion by moving the orders of the day; and the House then went into committee of the whole.

The Treasury bill was taken up, and Biddle proceeded to address the committee in opposition to the bill. He said this was a question of pledging the credit of the country to raise money for the government; and he contended that Treasury notes were the very worst form in which that credit could be pledged.

Thursday, Oct. 5.

Prentiss presented the petition of 142 women of Jamaica, and the petition of 54 legal voters of Vershire, Vermont, remonstrating against the annexation of Texas to the United States.

Prentiss also presented the petition of a number of women of Townshend, Vermont, praying for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and the slave trade in the United States; and also, four petitions from inhabitants and legal voters of Vershire, Vt., praying Congress to abolish slavery and the slave trade in all the Territories of the United States; to regulate the commerce of slaves among the several States, so that it may be immediately prohibited; not to admit any new State into the Union whose Constitution tolerates domestic slavery; and to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia.

Preston objecting to the reception of the above memorials on slavery and the slave trade—

King of Alabama, moved to lay the question of their reception on the table; which was done accordingly. So the memorials were not received.

On motion of Mr. Linn the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday.

In the House, Howard, on leave, moved to print 10,000 extra copies of the Message of the President in regard to the correspondence with Mexico in relation to Mexican affairs.

Adams moved to amend by adding the same number of the Brazilian correspondence.

Both propositions were agreed to.

The resolution declaring it to be inexpedient to establish a National Bank was then taken up; and the question being on Sergeant's motion of yesterday to refer the resolution to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union,

Brynm took the floor in support of the resolution and against the commitment.

P. Q. Cushman, of New Hampshire, moved the previous question.

The motion, being seconded by the House, was put, and the vote taken by yeas and nays.

There being a tie, the Speaker voted in the affirmative, and it was carried. The yeas and nays were—Yeas 101, Nays 101.

The previous question being thus carried by the casting vote of the Speaker, the main question on the resolution was put and decided as follows: Yeas 123, Nays 91.

So the House resolved that it is inexpedient to establish a National Bank.

The amendment, reported last night from the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, to the bill authorizing the issue of Treasury Notes was then taken up; the question being on agreeing to the same.

[The amendment provides against the reception of the notes in payment of debts not due. The object is to prevent the U. S. Bank from employing these notes in the immediate discharge of the sums due from that bank to the government.]

Fletcher, of Massachusetts, spoke in opposition to the bill, in which he argued to show that the emission of Treasury notes was an unnecessary loan, and urged sundry grounds of objection to the mode in which it was proposed to make it.

Cushing, of Mass., stated in confirmation of one point in the argument of his colleague, that in the draught of the Constitution submitted by Mr. Pinckney, in the Convention, a provision was contained giving the General Government the power to issue bills of credit; and that it was rejected.

Parmenter, of Mass., replied briefly to the speech of Fletcher, insisting that there was a defect in the means of the government, and that the issue of Treasury notes was the best expedient to supply it.

Crockett, of Tennessee, made a very animated speech on the general course and policy of the administration in relation to the currency.

Hamner, of Ohio, vindicated the bill from some of the objections made against it.

Phillips, of Mass., replied to the remarks of his colleague, (Parmenter,) and to those of Hamner, at some length.

Friday, Oct. 6.

In the House the Treasury Note Bill is rising into a storm. Cushing of Massachusetts made a learned and elaborate argument against the bill. Patton spoke with much vehemence in support of the sentiments which he avowed last evening, and against Cambreleng. Cushing replied to Legare on the constitutional question. He said this was a point on which he did not profess to have formed any opinion himself; but he knocked Legare's argument completely to pieces, by quoting decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.